

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Title of Publication: Pierrepoint

Other Known Title: The Last Hangman

Format: DVD

Director/Author: Adrian Shergold

Producer/Publisher: Christine Langan

Country of Origin: UK

Language: English

Applicant: Chief Censor

Distributor: Rialto Distribution

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
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Descriptive Note: Violence and content that may disturb.

Display Conditions: Nil

Date of entry in Register: 06 August 2007

Date of direction to issue a label: 03 August 2007

OFLC No: 701623

Unexcised version of publication:

	Components	Running time
Feature:	Pierrepoint	91.12
Total running time:		91.12

Excisions: No Excisions Recommended

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable

**Summary of reasons
for classification:**

The DVD entitled *Pierrepoint* is classified as:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

The film is based on the true story of Albert Pierrepoint, a famous British executioner. Pierrepoint began work as an executioner in 1932. The feature documents his mental and emotional negotiation of his career and private life with the determination to become the best executioner in Britain. The DVD is currently showing as a 35mm film in New Zealand cinemas with a rating of Unrestricted: Suitable for mature audiences 16 years of age and over. The publication was cross-rated from the Australian M rating by the Film and Video Labelling Body Inc. The Chief Censor directed the Secretary for Internal Affairs to obtain a copy of the film under s13(3) of the Films, Videos and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act), as he was concerned that the rating assigned to this film may not accurately reflect its content under New Zealand law.

The publication requires a restriction to older teenagers and adults to avoid likely injury to the public good. There are multiple depictions of death by hanging as a result of capital punishment. The executions are presented in a realistic and authentic manner addressing the social, emotional and physical impact of the violence depicted. The publication's artistic, social and cultural merit balances the violent content and places it in the appropriate context, but this would still be disturbing and shocking to children and younger teenagers.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the Bill of Rights on the application of the classification criteria elsewhere in these reasons. A restriction of the film's availability to persons 16 years of age and over is a reasonable and demonstrably justified limitation of the freedom of expression as it reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to limit the availability of publications that deal with matters of violence in a manner that is likely to be injurious to the public good.